

Application No.: 09/658,977

Docket No.: M&R 3.0-033

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recent telephone interview. The Examiner noted that he did not understand the invention as claimed by the applicant, which resulted in the various objections and rejections.

Although applicant maintains that the claims were acceptable as written, the undersigned and the examiner discussed possible ways of amending the claims which would aid the examiner's understanding but not change the scope of the originally-filed claims. In this regard, the applicant and examiner believed that the amendments of claim 1 met both needs, subject to the examiner's further review. As also discussed, the applicant believes the other objections and rejections to be moot.

As the examiner suggested, the applicant has also changed the way some of the claims refer to entities and relationships in order to promote a quick understanding of the claims. For example, applicant has changed references from "first member" to "middle member". This and similar changes were made for the purposes of nomenclature only, and should not be interpreted as limiting the scope of the claims in any way. In other words, applicant does not intend for there to be any distinction between "first member" as originally claimed and a "middle member" as currently claimed.

Applicant has also corrected some misnumbered claims. Due to the misnumbering, the Examiner will note that the cover sheet provides authorization for the Patent Office to charge our deposit account for additional claims.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such

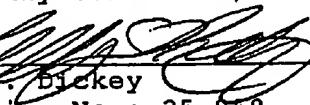
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action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have. If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 12, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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